

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 10, 14-15, 18-19, 22, and 27 as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 - receiving a search term for a query;
 - searching a network of concept terms for terms related to the search term, ~~the related terms representing a variety of terms having a relatively close relationship with the search term;~~
 - reformulating the query using the search term and the related terms ~~without before~~ performing a search for documents based on the search term;
 - searching a local database for data terms that match the search term and the related terms based on a predetermined relationship, wherein the data terms are generated from documents residing on websites located on servers ~~across a network based on a predetermined relationship between the search term and the related terms~~ connected to, wherein the predetermined relationship includes a weight factor based on a ratio of an occurrence frequency of both the search term and the related terms over an occurrence frequency of the search term within the documents; and
 - in response to ~~the data terms found in the local database~~ matching data terms with the search terms and related terms corresponding to the data terms, retrieving the documents from the respective websites whose data terms match the search term and the related terms.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying the retrieved documents, the search terms and the related terms, wherein at least one of the related terms includes a link, when activated, a further search of concept terms is conducted and one

or more further related terms are presented, and wherein searching the local database and retrieving the documents are literally performed based on the further related terms.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a summary of the documents for the searched terms that match the search term and the related terms.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the summary includes the searched terms and a beginning portion of the documents.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network of concept terms includes links between related terms, wherein the links are based on semantic relationships.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the semantic relationships are selected from a group consisting of canonical, synonym, hyponym, hypernym, part, product and member.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein related terms are more specific than the search term.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein different emphasis is placed on the related terms.

10. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

recursively performing the following process until desired documents are found:
receiving a search term for a query;

searching a network of concept terms for terms related to the initial search term, the related terms representing a variety of terms having a relatively close relationship with the search term;

reformulating the query using the initial search term and the related terms ~~without~~ before performing a search for documents based on the search term;

searching a local database for data terms that match the initial search term and the related terms based on a predetermined relationship, wherein the data terms are generated from documents residing on websites ~~located on servers across a network based on a predetermined relationship between the search term and the related terms~~ connected to, wherein the predetermined relationship is determined based on a weight factor based on a ratio of an occurrence frequency of both the search term and the related terms over an occurrence frequency of the search term within the documents;

displaying results of the searching of the local database; and

displaying the search term and the related terms.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein receiving the search term for the query includes receiving the search term for the query based on the displaying of the search term and the related items in a prior process.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the new search term is a related term from a prior search of the network of concept terms.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein reformulating the new query includes combining the new search term and the new related terms together using search operators.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the search operators are selected from the group consisting of AND, OR, NOT and NEAR, wherein the NEAR operator is satisfied when the new search term and at least one of the new related terms occur within a predetermined number of words within a sentence of a document.

15. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an initial search term for a query;

searching a network of concept terms for terms related to the initial search term, the related terms representing a variety of terms having a relatively close relationship with the search term;

reformulating the query using the initial search term and the related terms without before performing a search for documents based on the search term;

searching a local database for data terms that match the initial search term and the related terms based on a predetermined relationship, wherein the data terms are generated from documents residing on websites located on servers across a network based on a predetermined relationship between the search term and the related terms connected to, wherein the predetermined relationship is determined based on a weight factor based on a ratio of an occurrence frequency of both the search term and the related terms over an occurrence frequency of the search term within the documents;

displaying results of the searching of the local database;

displaying the search term and the related terms;

recursively performing the following until desired documents are found:

receiving a new search term for a new query based on the display of the results, the search term and the related terms;

searching the network of concept terms for new terms related to the new search term;

reformulating the new query using the new search term and the new related terms;
searching the local database for data terms that match the new search term and the new related terms, wherein the data terms are from documents residing on websites residing on servers across the network;
displaying results of the searching of the local database; and
displaying the new search term and the new related terms.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the new search term is a related term from a prior search of the network of concept terms.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein reformulating the new query includes combining the new search term and the new related terms together using search operators.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the search operators are selected from the group consisting of AND, OR, NOT and NEAR, wherein the NEAR operator is satisfied when the new search term and at least one of the new related terms occur within a predetermined number of words within a sentence of a document.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a database that includes data terms, wherein the data terms are generated from documents residing on websites located on servers across a network;
a concept network that includes search terms and related terms that are linked together based on semantic relationships, ~~the related terms representing a variety of terms having a relatively close relationship with the search term,~~ the search terms and the related terms to locate portions of the documents based on a match between the searchable terms and the related terms and the data terms

stored in the database, wherein the relationship is determined based on a weight factor based on a ratio of an occurrence frequency of both the search term and the related terms over an occurrence frequency of the search term within the documents.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the semantic relationships are selected from a group consisting of canonical, synonym, hyponym, hypernym, part, product and member.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the related terms are more specific than the search terms.

22. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a machine, cause said machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving a search term for a query;

searching a network of concept terms for terms related to the search term, ~~the related terms representing a variety of terms having a relatively close relationship with the search term;~~

reformulating the query using the search term and the related terms ~~without~~ before performing a search for documents based on the search term;

searching a local database for data terms that match the search term and the related terms, wherein the data terms are generated from documents residing on websites ~~located on servers across a network based on a predetermined relationship between the search term and the related terms connected to,~~ ~~wherein the predetermined relationship is determined based on a weight factor calculated based on a ratio of an occurrence frequency of both the search term~~

and the related terms over an occurrence frequency of the search term within the documents; and

in response to matching data terms with the search terms and related terms corresponding to the data terms, retrieving the documents from the respective websites whose data terms match the search term and the related terms.

23. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 22, further comprising displaying the retrieved documents, the search terms and the related terms.

24. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 22, further comprising generating a summary of the documents for the searched terms that match the search term and the related terms.

25. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the network of concept terms includes links between related terms, wherein the links are based on semantic relationships.

26. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the semantic relationships are selected from a group consisting of canonical, synonym, hyponym, hypernym, part, product and member.

27. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a machine, cause said machine to perform operations comprising:
recursively performing the following process until desired documents are found:
receiving a search term for a query;

searching a network of concept terms for terms related to the initial search term, ~~the related terms representing a variety of terms having a relatively close relationship with the search term;~~ reformulating the query using the initial search term and the related terms without performing a search for documents based on the search term; searching a local database for data terms that match the initial search term and the related terms, wherein the data terms are generated from documents residing on websites ~~located on servers across a network based on a predetermined relationship between the search term and the related terms~~ connected to, wherein the predetermined relationship is determined based on a weight factor calculated based on a ratio of an occurrence frequency of both the search term and the related terms over an occurrence frequency of the search term within the documents; displaying results of the searching of the local database; and displaying the search term and the related terms.

28. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 27, wherein receiving the search term for the query includes receiving the search term for the query based on the displaying of the search term and the related items in a prior process.

29. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the new search term is a related term from a prior search of the network of concept terms.

30. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 27, wherein reformulating the new query includes combining the new search term and the new related terms together using search operators.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the related terms are different than the search term and have similar meaning of the search term.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the search term includes a name of an organization, and wherein the related terms include at least one of a name of subsidiaries of the organization, a product name of the organization, and a stock symbol of the organization.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the data terms are generated based on mutual information associated with the search term and the related terms using a predetermined algorithm.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the mutual information is determined based on one or more weight factors of the search term and the related terms, the one or more weight factors representing occurrence frequencies of the respective search term, related terms, and a combination of both search term and the related terms.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the mutual information (MI) of the search term x and the related terms y is determined by $MI(x, y) = f(x,y) / f(x) + f(y) - f(x, y)$, wherein $f(x, y)$ corresponds to an occurrence frequency of both search term and the related terms, wherein $f(x)$ corresponds to an occurrence frequency of the search term, and wherein $f(y)$ corresponds to an occurrence frequency of the related terms.